

REMARKS

This Amendment is being filed in response to the Office Action mailed August 7, 2008, which has been reviewed and carefully considered. Reconsideration and allowance of the present application in view of the remarks to follow are respectfully requested.

Claims 2-6 and 8-19 remain in the Application, where claims 1 and 7 had been canceled without prejudice, and claims 15-19 have been added by the present Amendment. Claims 2-3 and 8 are independent.

In the Office Action, claims 3-4, 8 and 10 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as allegedly anticipated by GB 1 380 415 (Bacon). Further, claims 2, 9 and 11-14 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as allegedly unpatentable over Bacon in view of GB 2 272 226 (Little). Claims 5-6 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as allegedly unpatentable over Bacon in view of U.S. Patent No. 2,792,652 (Dawson). It is respectfully submitted that claims 2-6 and 8-19 are patentable over Bacon, Little and Dawson for at least the following reasons.

Bacon is directed to an electric iron that includes a steam generating chamber 12 formed by a casting 13 in a cast aluminum support plate 14. A glass ceramic facing forming a soleplate 15 is held against the underside of the aluminum support plate 14. A D-shaped sheathed wire electric heating element 16 heats the ceramic soleplate 15.

As clearly shown in FIG 1 and recited on page 3, lines 4-6, the D-shaped wire 16 is pressed into a semi-circular groove 17 of the aluminum support plate 14. Thus, the D-shaped wire 16 is NOT located on any elevated surface of the ceramic soleplate 15 that contacts objects to be ironed. The ceramic soleplate 15 that contacts objects to be ironed does not even have any elevated surfaces. Rather, the D-shaped wire 16 is located on an elevated surface of the aluminum support plate 14 that does NOT contacts objects to be ironed.

Little is directed to an electric iron that includes a steel sole plate 1 having a heating element on a surface 5 in the form of resistive element tracks 7. The steel sole plate 1 does not have any elevated surfaces, and thus the resistive element tracks 7 are

not on any elevated surfaces of the steel sole plate 1.

It is respectfully submitted that Bacon, Little, and combination thereof, do not teach or suggest the present invention as recited in independent claim 2, and similarly recited in independent claims 2-3 and 8 which, amongst other patentable features, recites (illustrative emphasis provided):

a soleplate having a contacting surface for contacting objects to be ironed, and at least one elevated surface which is at a higher level than the contacting surface; ...

wherein the heating means associated with the soleplate are exclusively arranged on the at least one elevated surface of the soleplate.

A soleplate having a contacting surface for contacting objects to be ironed, and at least one elevated surface, where heating means associated with the soleplate are exclusively arranged on the elevated surface of the soleplate, are nowhere disclosed or suggested Bacon and Little, alone or in combination. Dawson is cited to allegedly show other features and does not remedy the deficiencies in Bacon and Little.

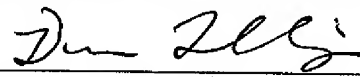
Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that independent claims 2-3 and 8 are allowable. In additions, claims 4-6 and 9-19

are also allowable at least based on their dependence from independent claims 2-3 and 8.

In addition, Applicant denies any statement, position or averment of the Examiner that is not specifically addressed by the foregoing argument and response. Any rejections and/or points of argument not addressed would appear to be moot in view of the presented remarks. However, the Applicant reserves the right to submit further arguments in support of the above stated position, should that become necessary. No arguments are waived and none of the Examiner's statements are conceded.

In view of the above, it is respectfully submitted that the present application is in condition for allowance, and a Notice of Allowance is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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October 30, 2008

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